

Good day members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee. My name is Jaime Myers-McPhail and I am an organizer with New Haven Rising and member of the Recovery for All. I am testifying in support of **SB 21**; **SB 28** & **SB 29**.

New haven rising is fighting to change the maps of systemic racism. The same neighborhoods that were redlined and deemed hazardous in 1937 are the neighborhoods today with the highest foreclosure rates, highest unemployment, and highest rates of COVID 19. There is an 11 year gap in life expectancy between predominantly black Newhallville where I organize, and predominantly white prospect hill just blocks away. Nevermind the gap between Newhallville and Greenwich. Most wealthy suburbs would never tolerate the conditions my members face daily.

CT is notoriously home to some of the worst racial and economic inequality in the country.. As fiscal experts have pointed out, addressing our extreme segregation and inequality requires a major overhaul of our regressive tax systems and zoning laws.

Changing the maps is a call that is based on thousands and thousands of conversations at doorsteps across New Haven. And those conversations make the difference in crucial elections like the one for Governor we will face this year. If working people get no relief from those elected to represent us, what reason do we have to turn out and vote? If we are so crucial so essential as workers and voters then why do those we elect betray us for wealthy elites and special interests?

The only way out of this racist disaster that costs lives and dollars is through progressive taxation. Step one is to abandon the myth that taxes can't be raised on the rich and corporations.

In order to create real tax fairness and build equity, we need a comprehensive approach that includes those three bills but also (1) raises income tax rates on the highest earners; (2) increases corporate income tax rates and establishes a surcharge for highest earners; (3) institutes a digital ad tax on mega-profitable tech companies; (4) establishes a child tax credit; (5) provides pandemic pay to essential workers; and (6) creates transparency mechanisms to shine light on how much huge corporations are actually paying in taxes.

In new haven rising we know that bold changes ARE possible. after years of winning federal, state, and local elections and years of grassroots campaigning, we delivered major victories - increasing Yale's contribution to the city by \$52 million and working with leaders like Marty Looney to increase PILOT payments by \$49 million per year. But after decades of austerity and cut upon cut alongside tax increases burdening poor and working people, even these historic wins barely stop the bleeding. . Truly addressing the legacy of redlining and reversing decades of segregation and racial inequality require resources.

The Recovery for All agenda, while progressive and inspiring, isn't unreasonable - it is basic justice and fairness.

I urge you to vote favorably on these bills. Thank you.

